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Ministry of Forests and Range
Office of the Chief Forester

NEW HARVEST LEVEL FOR ROBSON VALLEY TIMBER SUPPLY AREA

VICTORIA – The allowable annual cut (AAC) for the Robson Valley timber supply area in eastern British Columbia will be reduced immediately to 536,000 cubic metres, chief forester Jim Snetsinger announced today. The reduction is about three per cent or 16,377 cubic metres per year.

"In making my determination, I considered evidence that suggests the Foster and Caribou watersheds may not be viable for harvest because they're difficult to access," said Snetsinger. "The new AAC still provides the flexibility needed to effectively manage mountain pine beetle populations."

The determination for the Robson Valley timber supply area includes 6,000 cubic metres for harvesting deciduous trees such as aspen and cottonwood.

The new harvest level doesn't include 50,000 cubic metres per year transferred to the McBride Community Forest Agreement since the previous AAC determination was made in 2001. This volume is administered separately from the Robson Valley timber supply area.

The allowable annual cut determination is the third for the Robson Valley timber supply area under B.C.'s comprehensive timber supply review, and was completed under the Defined Forest Area Management (DFAM) initiative. Under DFAM, companies licensed to harvest in the timber supply area collaboratively carry out a timber supply analysis at least once every five years. DFAM groups are responsible for collecting data and preparing a data package, completing a timber supply analysis and report and providing opportunities for public and First Nations reviews.

Copies of the chief forester's allowable annual cut determination is available on the Ministry of Forests and Range website http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/tsa/tsa17/ or from the ministry's Headwaters Forest District in Clearwater or the Southern Interior Forest Region in Kamloops.

Under the timber supply review, the chief forester must determine how much wood can be harvested in each of the province's 37 timber supply areas and 34 tree farm licences at least once every five years. The chief forester can determine new allowable annual cuts earlier in response to abnormal situations such as the mountain pine beetle, or postpone a decision for another five years if a harvest level is not expected to change significantly.

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